

1 **CLAIMS**

2       1.     A method comprising:  
3       identifying multiple policies to be combined together;  
4       determining whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies;  
5       adding non-conflicting policies to a merged policy set; and  
6       resolving conflicting policies by selecting a preferred policy and including  
7       the preferred policy in the merged policy set.

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9       2.     A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the preferred policy  
10       represents a preferred range of values associated with at least one of the multiple  
11       policies.

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13       3.     A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising determining an  
14       allowed range of values associated with the multiple policies.

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16       4.     A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the preferred policy is  
17       contained within an allowed range of values associated with the multiple policies.

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19       5.     A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising deleting policies  
20       that are outside an allowed range of values, wherein the allowed range of values is  
21       associated with the multiple policies.

1           6.    A method as recited in claim 1 wherein selecting a preferred policy  
2 includes:

3           arranging conflicting policy templates in order from global policies to local  
4 policies;

5           determining an intersection of the conflicting policy templates; and

6           selecting the preferred policy template based on the intersection of the  
7 conflicting policy templates.

8  
9           7.    A method as recited in claim 1 wherein selecting a preferred policy  
10 includes:

11           arranging conflicting policy templates in order from global policies to local  
12 policies;

13           determining an intersection of the conflicting policy templates; and

14           selecting the preferred policy template based on the policy template closest  
15 to the local policies and within the intersection of the conflicting policy templates.

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17           8.    A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the policies are event-  
18 handling policies.

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20           9.    A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the policies define how a  
21 device is to be configured.

22  
23           10.   A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the policies identify the  
24 types of events that are provided to each device.

1           11. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein resolving conflicting  
2 policies includes comparing related policies individually.

3  
4           12. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the method is implemented  
5 by a management module.

6  
7           13. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer  
8 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim  
9 1.

10  
11           14. A method comprising:  
12 identifying multiple policies to be combined together;  
13 determining whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies;  
14 adding non-conflicting policies to a merged policy set;  
15 arranging conflicting policies in order from global policies to local policies;  
16 determining an intersection of the conflicting policies; and  
17 selecting a preferred policy based on the policy closest to the local policies  
18 and within the intersection of the conflicting policies.

19  
20           15. A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the preferred policy  
21 represents a preferred range of values associated with at least one of the multiple  
22 policies.

1           **16.**    A method as recited in claim 15 further comprising deleting policies  
2 that are outside the preferred range of values.

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4           **17.**    A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the policies are event-  
5 handling policies.

6  
7           **18.**    A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the policies determine how  
8 an associated device is configured.

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10          **19.**    One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer  
11 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim  
12 14.

13  
14          **20.**    An apparatus comprising:  
15           a storage device configured to store a merged policy set; and  
16           a management module coupled to the storage device and configured to  
17 identify multiple policies to be merged into the merged policy set, wherein the  
18 management module adds non-conflicting policies to the merged policy set and  
19 resolves conflicts among conflicting policies.

20  
21          **21.**    An apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein resolving conflicts  
22 among conflicting policies includes selecting a preferred policy and including the  
23 preferred policy in the merged policy set.

1           **22.**     An apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein resolving conflicts  
2 among conflicting policies includes arranging conflicting policy templates in  
3 order from global policies to local policies, determining the intersection of the  
4 conflicting policy templates, and selecting the preferred policy template based on  
5 the policy template that is closest to the local policies and within the intersection  
6 of the conflicting policy templates.

7  
8           **23.**     An apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein the management  
9 module is part of an enterprise computing system.

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11           **24.**     An apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein the management  
12 module receives event data generated by a plurality of event providers coupled to  
13 the management module.

14  
15           **25.**     An apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein the multiple policies  
16 define how devices are configured in an enterprise.

17  
18           **26.**     An apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein the multiple policies  
19 identify the types of events that are provided to each device in an enterprise.  
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1           27. One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a  
2 computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one  
3 or more processors to:

4           identify multiple policies to be combined together in a merged policy set;

5           determine whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies;

6           include non-conflicting policies in the merged policy set;

7           resolve conflicting policies by:

8                 selecting an allowed policy range;

9                 selecting a preferred policy range that is included in the allowed  
10           policy range; and

11                 including the preferred policy range in the merged policy set.

12  
13           28. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 27  
14 wherein the policies are event-handling policies.

15  
16           29. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 27  
17 wherein the policies identify the types of events that are provided to devices in an  
18 enterprise.